

Attorney Docket No.: 10015154

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pivotable collecting device for handling a folded sheet material, comprising:
  - a supporting edge for supporting a fold of the folded sheet material;
  - two supporting sides opposing one another; and
  - means for pivoting the supporting edge and supporting sides about a first axis to receive the folded sheet material such that each supporting side receives a different portion of the folded sheet material.
2. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the supporting sides converge at the supporting edge.
3. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the first axis is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the supporting edge.
4. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the supporting sides are substantially parallel to one another.
5. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, comprising:

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a collecting drive for at least one of: clamping the folded sheet material against at least one of the supporting sides, and advancing the folded sheet material along the at least one supporting side.

6. The pivotable collecting device of claim 5, wherein: the collecting drive is rotatably mounted on at least one mounting side, and the at least one mounting side is arranged substantially perpendicular to the supporting sides.

7. The pivotable collecting device of claim 5, wherein the collecting drive rotates based on a pivoting movement of the supporting edge and supporting sides.

8. The pivotable collecting device of claim 5, wherein the collecting drive rotates based on at least one of a biasing element and contact between the collecting drive and a redirection area.

9. The pivotable collecting device of claim 5, wherein the collecting drive rotates about a second axis parallel to the first axis.

10. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, comprising:

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means for deflecting the folded sheet material onto at least one of the supporting sides.

11. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the pivotable collecting device comprises:

means for aligning the folded sheet material on the supporting edge.

12. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the pivotable collecting device comprises:

means for staple clinching.

13. The pivotable collecting device of claim 1, wherein the pivotable collecting device comprises:

means for ejecting the folded sheet material from the supporting edge.

14. A method for transferring folded sheet material, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first portion of the folded sheet material on a first supporting side of a collecting device;

supporting a fold of the folded sheet material on a supporting edge of the collecting device; and

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pivoting the pivotable collecting device in a first direction such that a second supporting side of the pivotable collecting device receives a second portion of the folded sheet material, wherein the first and second supporting sides are opposing sides of the collecting device.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the receiving step includes pivoting the pivotable collecting device in a second direction to receive the first portion of the folded sheet material.

16. The method of claim 14, comprising the step of:  
deflecting the first portion of the folded sheet material onto the first supporting side of the collecting device.

17. The method of claim 14, comprising the step of:  
clamping the first portion of the folded sheet material against the first supporting side of the collecting device.

18. The method of claim 14, comprising the step of:  
advancing the first portion of the folded sheet material along the first supporting side of the collecting device.

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19. The method of claim 14, comprising the step of:

locking the pivotable collecting device when a desired amount of folded sheet material is received by the pivotable collecting device.

20. A pivotable collecting device for handling a folded sheet material, comprising:

a supporting edge for supporting a fold of a folded sheet material;

two supporting sides opposing one another; and

means for pivoting the supporting edge and supporting sides about a first axis to receive the folded sheet material such that each supporting side receives a different portion of the folded sheet material, wherein the supporting sides converge at the supporting edge, and the first axis is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the supporting edge.

21. The pivotable collecting device of claim 20, comprising:

a collecting drive for at least one of: clamping the folded sheet material against at least one of the supporting sides, and advancing the folded sheet material along the at least one supporting side.